

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VA.
NEAR SMITHFIELD

HABS NO. 11-20
HABS
VA.
47-SMIF.V.
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. 11

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PHILIP N. STERN, DISTRICT OFFICER
21 LAW BLDG., FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

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ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
Near Smithfield
Isle of Wight County
Virginia

Owner: Episcopal Church.

Date of Erection: Between 1632 and 1682.

Architect: No record.

Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: One; tower, three.

Materials of Construction: Brick.

Other Existing Records: Virginia Carolorum, by Neill, E.D., page 263, says St. Luke's Church was built some years after 1638; page 263, the first brick church in Virginia (at Jamestown) was commenced in 1639. ¹

Additional Data: See the following pages:

¹ See also the following references:

- Brock, H.I., Colonial Churches in Virginia.
Lancaster, R.A., Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, 49.
Kimball, F., American Architecture: opp. page 28.
Tallmadge, T.E., The Story of Architecture in America, 30.
Embury, Aymar, II, Early American Churches, 20.
Ware, W.R., The Georgian Period, 21, 59.
Coffin and Holden, Brick Architecture of the Colonial Period in Maryland and Virginia, 21.
Briggs, Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers in England and America.
Hamlin, T.F., The American Spirit in Architecture, 48.
Jackson, J., American Colonial Architecture, 28.
Virginia Colonial Churches (1908), 80.
Photograph in architectural collection of Fine Arts Division.

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Near Smithfield

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HISTORICAL DATA

St. Luke's, or as it was called prior to the Revolution: "The Old Brick Church", was built under the care of Joseph Bridger ^[d. 1686] sometime between 1632 and 1682, in what was then Warrescoyack Parish, later divided in 1642 into Newport and Warrescoyack.

The church is remarkable as the only remaining example of a buttressed Gothic Church of the ~~early~~ seventeenth century in America.

The church remained in constant use until about the first quarter of the 18th century when it fell into disrepair. In 1887 the roof fell in carrying down part of the walls. The building remained in a state of disuse until a restoration was begun in 1890 under the direction of the Rev. David Barr, then rector of the Church. The work was completed about 1897. The present stained glass was set in at this time.

Reference: Finlay F. Ferguson, Jr.

Philip T. Stone

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.